

Message Text

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SUBJ: THE PLATO PLAN CONTROVERSY AND CONTROL DATA CORPORATION

1. DR. RUTH LERNER DE ALMEA, ACTING VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MONDAY DENIED A LEFTIST ACCUSATION THAT THE EDUCATION MINISTRY WAS PLANNING TO HAND OVER THE VENEZUELAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TO AN AMERICAN MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION. THE CONTROL DATA CORPORATION HAS PRESENTED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM, CALLED "THE PLATO PLAN", FOR MODERNIZING VENEZUEL'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, INVOLVING EXTENSIVE USE OF COMPUTERS AND PROGRAMMED LEARNING. THE PLAN IS SIMILAR TO ONE RECENTLY DEVELOPED BY THE COMPANY FOR IRAN.
2. DR. ALMEA WAS QUOTED BY EL UNIVERSAL SEPTEMBER 8 AS HAVING SAID "WE LISTENED TO THE COMPANY'S OFFER, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE IN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY HAVE NOT HAD ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMPANY." SHE ADDED THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY CONTRACT SIGNED BY THE COMPANY AND THE AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITIES. "I DON'T BELIEVE THEY HAVE SIGNED SUCH A CONTRACT."
3. THE LEFTIST MAS PARTY (MOVEMENT TOWARD SOCIALISM) HAD ACCUSED GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF CREATING "THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM WOULD BE CONTROLLED IN LARGE PART BY A MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION." MAS DESCRIBED

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THE PLAN AS "AN INTERVENTION BY TRANS-NATIONAL COMPANIES

IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG VENEZUELAN, PARTICULARLY AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL".

THE MAS REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMED THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF "EXTREME NATIONAL GRAVITY... IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ANTI-PATRIOTIC AND ANTI- NATIONAL ATTEMPT TO TURN OUR EDUCATION OVER TO THE DESIGNS AND SHADY OBJECTIVES OF A TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATION...

TODAY (THE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES) ARE WILLING TO SECRETLY SELL OUT OUR INTELLECTUAL POTENTIAL, TO CEDE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG VENEZUELAN, TO OPEN THEIR MINDS TO THE MANIPULATION OF THE MESSAGES OF DEPENDENCE, TO MENTAL DERANGEMENT, TO THE NEUTRALIZATION OF THEIR CREATIVE CAPACITY, TO PUT THEM ON THE ALTAR OF THE PRINCIPLES OF CAPITALISM, OF CONSUMERISM, AND (TO EXPOSE THEM TO) THE IDIOTIZATION (SIC) OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD."

4. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE RULING AD PARTY, LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ, IN TODAY'S EDITION OF EL NACIONAL (SEPTEMBER 11) CALLED THE MAS ACCUSATIONS "TENDENTIOUS AND FALSE." THE AD POLITICIAN SAID THAT THIS KIND OF IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISM HAS CAUSED MANY TO QUESTION THE ABILITY OF MAS TO FUNCTION RESPONSIBLY WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.
SHLAUDEMAN

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